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SENATE BILL 638

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; MANDATING A CURRICULUM THAT
INCLUDES TEACHING AND TRAINING IN TOLERANCE, DIVERSITY
AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 22, Article 13 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ TOLERANCE CURRICULUM.--The department
shall develop standards for a kindergarten through grade twelve
curriculum in tolerance, diversity awareness and communication
and require the teaching of tolerance and training in diversity
communication at every level through graduation. The
department shall establish by rule the standards for an
acceptable program for each grade level."

Section 2. Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
.177272.2

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1 Chapter 153, Section 57, as amended by Laws 2007, Chapter 307,
2 Section 7 and by Laws 2007, Chapter 308, Section 7) is amended
3 to read:

4 "22-13-1. SUBJECT AREAS--MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS
5 REQUIRED--ACCREDITATION.--

6 A. The department shall require public schools to
7 address department-approved academic content and performance
8 standards when instructing in specific department-required
9 subject areas as provided in this section. A public school or
10 school district failing to meet these minimum requirements
11 shall not be accredited by the department.

12 B. All kindergarten through third grade classes
13 shall provide daily instruction in tolerance, diversity
14 awareness and communication, reading and language arts skills,
15 including phonemic awareness, phonics and comprehension, and in
16 mathematics. Students in kindergarten and first grades shall
17 be screened and monitored for progress in reading and language
18 arts skills and students in second grade shall take diagnostic
19 tests on reading and language arts skills.

20 C. All first, second and third grade classes shall
21 provide instruction in art, music [~~and~~] a language other than
22 English and tolerance, diversity awareness and communication,
23 and instruction that meets content and performance standards
24 shall be provided in science, social studies, physical
25 education and health education.

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1 D. In fourth through eighth grades, instruction
2 that meets academic content and performance standards shall be
3 provided in the following subject areas:

4 (1) reading and language arts skills, with an
5 emphasis on writing and editing for at least one year and an
6 emphasis on grammar and writing for at least one year;

7 (2) mathematics;

8 (3) language other than English;

9 (4) communication skills;

10 (5) science;

11 (6) art;

12 (7) music;

13 (8) social studies;

14 (9) New Mexico history;

15 (10) United States history;

16 (11) geography;

17 (12) physical education; [~~and~~]

18 (13) health education; and

19 (14) tolerance, diversity awareness and
20 communication.

21 E. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, in
22 eighth grade, algebra 1 shall be offered in regular classroom
23 settings or through online courses or agreements with high
24 schools.

25 F. In fourth through eighth grades, school

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1 districts shall offer electives that contribute to academic
2 growth and skill development and provide career and technical
3 education.

4 G. In fourth through eighth grades, school
5 districts shall offer a tolerance, diversity awareness and
6 communication course that contributes to healthy socialization.

7 [~~G.~~] H. In ninth through twelfth grades,
8 instruction that meets academic content and performance
9 standards shall be provided in health education.

10 I. In ninth through twelfth grades, instruction
11 that meets performance standards shall be provided in
12 tolerance, diversity awareness and communication."

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